

Appl. No. 10/605,650
Amdt. dated December 20, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 16, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

Figure 10 is amended to identify the hollow cylinder 42 and the screw threads 44 on the inside wall with reference numbers. Paragraph [0033] of the specification has also been amended correspondingly.

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In addition, Figure 15 has been amended to replace the term “bases” with “bores” in steps 102 and 110.

10 No new matter has been introduced through any of these changes, and acceptance of the drawings is respectfully requested.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

2 pages

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Objection to the specification:

The disclosure is objected to because throughout the specification, the use of “bores” and “bases” has been used interchangeably, however, it is suggested to remain consistent and use one or the other, so as not to imply the components having different structures.

Response:

The specification and claims have been amended to change all instances of the term “base” to become the “bore”. Figure 15 has been amended to reflect this change as well. No new matter has been added, and acceptance of the specification is respectfully requested.

2. Rejection of claims 8-9, 13-16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 8-9, 13-16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the applicant’s admitted prior art (AAPA).

Response:

Claims 8-9 and 13-14 are cancelled, and are no longer in need of consideration.

Claim 15 has been amended to distinguish from the prior art. Claim 15 now describes the structure of the screw as well as the relative locations of the screw, the nut, the damper, and the mounting plate. The amendments to claim 15 are fully supported by Figures 8, 9, and 14, and the corresponding sections of the specification, and no new matter is added through the amendment.

Specifically, claim 15 states that the screw has a screw shaft and a head, and the

screw shaft has a first shaft section that is larger in diameter than a threaded second shaft section. The bottom portion of the second shaft is threaded into the bore of the tray, and the nut is threaded onto the second shaft section, but is prevented from being threaded onto the larger first shaft section. Because the nut cannot be threaded
5 onto the first shaft section, a predetermined clearance is left between the nut and the head of the screw for installing the damper. The damper is used for connecting the mounting plate to the screw and allowing the screw to support the mounting plate.

On the other hand, the AAPA only teaches at the end of paragraph [0009] and in
10 Figure 5 that screws are installed through dampers 24, nuts are threaded onto the screws, and that the screws are threaded into bores 30 on the tray. However, the AAPA does not teach that the screw has a first shaft section that is larger in diameter than a threaded second shaft section and that the nut is threaded onto the second shaft section, but prevented from being threaded onto the larger first shaft section.
15 Therefore, the AAPA does not teach a way to leave a predetermined clearance between the nut and the head of the screw for installing the damper.

Since the AAPA does not teach all of the limitations contained in claim 15, claim 15 should be allowable. Furthermore, claim 18 is dependent on claim 15,
20 and should be allowed if claim 15 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 15 and 18 is therefore respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of claims 10-12, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 10-12, 17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being
25 unpatentable over the AAPA.

Response:

Claims 10-12 are cancelled, and are no longer in need of consideration.

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Claims 17 and 19 are dependent on claim 15, and should be allowed if claim 15 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 17 and 19 is therefore respectfully requested.

5 In view of the claim amendments and the above arguments in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Sincerely yours,

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Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526
P.O. BOX 506, Merrifield, VA 22116, U.S.A.
Voice Mail: 302-729-1562
15 Facsimile: 806-498-6673
e-mail : winstonhsu@naipo.com

Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 13 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 10 PM in Taiwan.)

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